

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C. under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 16, NO. 5.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1926.

Achievement never firmer with quitters.

COMPANY "UNION" PURPOSE IS REVEALED

The National Industrial Conference Board is investigating the company "union."

The board is composed of a score of manufacturers' organizations, including the most anti-union in the country. In its questionnaire the board says:

"We want in particular to know to what extent in your experience work councils and similar forms of employee representation have been found to be a device for OFFENSIVE TRADE UNIONISM IN THE PLANT."

Thus, in a few words, is the reason for the company "union."

Can it offset trade unionism? Is the question these employers would like answered.

This is the first time opponents of organized labor have frankly told why they favor the company "union."

This, in itself, is a gain. The issue is clarified by the admission of union foes.

Assuming that these employers honestly seek information, can they give a correct answer?

How do they know to what extent the trade union theory has been secretly accepted by the American employer? How do they know to what extent they intend to apply this theory?

What do they know of unexpressed resentment against the company "union," its hand-picked committees and its denial of free expression?

Do these employers believe that the strength of a principle can be tabulated by an adding machine?

Are they aware that history refutes the theory that an ideal can be chained by trickery or force?

The manufacturers confess that the company "union" is intended to deceive; that it is an invention, rather than a development; that it is a decoy and a lure;

that its purpose is to deny rights to those who do not understand.

If workers are to be considered free men, they must be treated as free men.

To assemble them into a boss-controlled "union," to dictate the procedure of that "union," and to select its representatives may succeed for the moment, but it will serve as a lasting lesson when men realize that the only help is self help.

The questionnaires will contribute nothing, and it will solve nothing.

Regardless of the board's verdict, the struggle for democracy in industry will go on. To say that can be switched by subterfuge and deceit is to reflect on the workers' growing intelligence.

Organized labor will continue to reach the minds and hearts of these workers by its doctrine of man's ownership of himself.

PATRIOTIC CANNERS SELL ROTTEN SALMON

Washington, April 17.—According to a suit filed by the government against the Alaska Packers' Association of San Francisco, these packers did not allow patriotism to interfere with selling rotten salmon for the boys' war effort.

The government wants to recover \$439,210.64 alleged to be due under a contract made in war time by which the government purchased 262,772 cases of salmon.

The government discovered that an alarming portion of the salmon was unfit to eat—having been that way at the time of the canning.

As it was a hopeless task to condemn several million cans for spoilage, the government negotiated with the association for examination and repacking. An agreement was reached whereby the government now attacks as invalid, was entered into whereby the association was to rebate for repacking, recanning, restocking and relabeling the salmon. All this new work, except the repacking, was successfully completed, although government authorities did not know that at the time.

The government now claims the difference between the fair market price of good salmon at the time the purchased salmon was returned, and the amount paid to the association, plus freight charges, which amounts to \$439,210.64.

Labor's Co-Op. Insurance Company Will Eagerly Supported by Unionists

Washington, April 17.—"The Union Labor Life Insurance Company has traveled one-half of the country in its \$600,000 goal," declared Matthew Woll, president of organized labor's latest co-operative venture.

"If it is true that 'money talks,' labor is proving its faith in its insurance project by already subscribing one-half of the \$600,000 we will have before we begin business," said Mr. Woll.

"Many international unions have already subscribed large amounts of stock. These include: Plumbers and railway carmen, \$40,000 each; typographical union, \$25,000; street car men and police, \$20,000 each; bakers, typewriter workers, cigarmakers, photographers, glass bottle blowers, electricians, plumbers, steam engineers and switchmen, \$5,000 each; federal employees, post office employees, and laborers, \$2,000 each; pulp and sulphite workers and longshoremen, \$500 each.

"These international, co-op. unions," continued Mr. Woll, "have urged their locals to subscribe, and other unions have announced that they will recommend favorable action to their conventions. Subscriptions from state and central bodies and individual unionists continue to swell the total.

"Many of the largest life insurance companies in this country started business with a fraction of the money now paid in to labor's insurance," said Mr. Woll. "Our goal is \$600,000. One-half of this will be our capital and the other one-half reserve, or stock. These amounts will increase as business increases.

"That our \$600,000 goal will be reached is certain. Nothing can compare with the enthusiasm and interest of the trade unionists in this movement. We have the right of the people, which is the strongest position before we issue the first policy. Under our constitution it is impossible for insurance companies to be organized in a movement to control or secure possession of the company."

Boston's "Into-the-Unions" Drive Starts With Record Street Parade

Boston, April 17.—The nation-wide organizing campaign planned by the A. F. of L. executive council was launched here in the form of six separate street parades. It was one of the largest outpourings of organized workers in the history of this city, and none exceeded it in enthusiasm. The demonstrations were followed by a mass meeting at which the city was filled to its capacity. The police had to close the doors long before a majority of the marchers arrived at that point. Overflow meetings were held in the squares and for more than three hours thousands of workers listened to the addresses.

James Duggan, first vice president of the A. F. of L., was the first speaker at the headquarters of the trade union movement. He was given an ovation as he referred to this unequal gathering of organizers of workers. They were determined to carry their message to the unemployed.

"The American labor movement," the only true labor leader, voting its best, "provides workers with improved living standards and a better industrial environment," he said.

"The day of the individual to do anything for himself in the industrial world has gone," said James O'Connell, president of the United Trades Department, A. F. of L. "This 'old time' in the industry of the 'old time' was also given a rousing reception."

Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, president of the Telephone Operators' Department, Brotherhood of Workers, said:

"The obstacles that block our progress can only be removed by affiliation with the A. F. of L."

A handful of communists attempted to join the parade, but were told they could not carry their banners or march as communists in an A. F. of L. procession. They retired when they were warned that any attempt to break the parade would result in their being arrested.

Later the "reds" were compelled to remove their banners from the hall, and all opportunity for free advertisement was lost.

ANCIENT LAWMAKERS HAD TROUBLES, TOO

Philadelphia, April 17.—The capital of the world is not a new problem, according to speakers before the American Bar Association. Citizens who lived 4,000 years ago had the same problems as those who live today. The ancient lawmakers had to cope with rich land owners in the vicinity of the city.

Dr. E. A. Speiser, a law against the direct sale of land, was as much as they tried to legislate against. The ancient lawmakers, he said, had to cope with the fact that the land owners adopted those whose land they wished to acquire. The ancient lawmakers had to cope with the fact that the land owners adopted those whose land they wished to acquire.

The ancient lawmakers had to cope with the fact that the land owners adopted those whose land they wished to acquire. The ancient lawmakers had to cope with the fact that the land owners adopted those whose land they wished to acquire.

NO CITIZEN SHOULD SHIRK POLITICS

It is not high patriotism for a citizen to claim he "takes no interest in politics."

Because "politics is the science of government" every citizen in a democracy should be interested in politics.

If they fail to do so, selfish interests gladly assume the task of governing.

A democracy can not function unless citizens take part in politics. They assist in molding a sound public opinion, participate in primary and elections and at all times insist on high ideals in public affairs.

These ideals will be approximated in proportion to the activity of citizens.

Corruption in politics often disgusts citizens who refuse to longer continue the struggle and who lose interest in the affairs of government.

This brings joy to privilege. They, too, affect a disgust, but this is a posture. They have a free field to secretly manipulate government when citizens retire from the field.

The test of our faith in free government is our zeal and our vigilance in behalf of that government.

LUTHER BURBANK DEAD: WAS FRIEND OF MAN

Santa Rosa, Cal., April 17.—Luther Burbank, plant wizard, horticulturist and benefactor to mankind, died here amid the flowering fruits and blooms he had created for humanity.

His first achievement, the Burbank potato, stood to every part of the earth, and has probably exerted a greater influence upon the world's food supply than any other single food plant. This potato is said to have added 25,000,000 bushels to the production of the United States.

His peaceful cactus will provide food and drink to the desert traveler, and his other achievements include experiments in fruit and flowers and the largest forest trees.

His extensive gardens in the world and are today the shrine of plant enthusiasts from every clime.

He endeavored to commercialize the priceless gifts he gave to humanity and he declined numerous offers to go on the lecture circuit.

On March 6, his 77th birthday, he issued a message to the children of the world in which he said that their happiness will be in direct proportion to their loving thoughts "toward every person, animal, and every spot, stars, planets, oceans, rivers and hills."

UNION MOVEMENT IS MELTING POT

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

The A. F. of L. is composed of the representatives of all trades and occupations within the United States and Canada. It is a voluntary organization and its membership includes all classes of labor, both skilled and unskilled, and of both sexes.

The A. F. of L. has blended into a co-operative organization many millions of men and women of all creeds and nationalities.

In this respect it has proved to be the economic melting pot of America. Religious and political freedom are guaranteed, recognized and respected. It is a singular fact that while in many localities men and women will divide on religious, political and social lines, the organized labor movement these men and women will fraternize, unite and organize for the advancement of a common purpose and the achievement of a fixed goal.

WOULD USE CONVICTS IN MOLDERS' STRIKE

Nashville, Tenn., April 17.—Prison officials of this state offered convict labor to break a strike of iron molders, according to David Hanly, legislative representative of the Tennessee State Federation of Labor.

The trade unionists have been in connection with his attack on Lewis S. Pope, commissioner of institutions, who appeared before an congressional committee in Washington to oppose a bill that would divert the interstate status of convict-made goods. This bill would allow the goods under the law of the state in which the goods are made.

Mr. Hanly said that when the foundry contract in the Nashville prison expired, the union molders attempted to secure a cheaper contract. It was then that the Pope administration induced the Alabama convicts, whose iron molders were on strike, to come to the Nashville prison.

The prison shops are operated 10 hours a day on the piece-work system. Under this plan the contractor furnishes the machinery and raw material and pays the state an agreed amount for the work done on each piece or article manufactured by the convicts. The contractor is required to furnish a man to supervise the work.

The convicts are forced to go to work and for failure to perform the tasks set.

CONVICT-MADE GOODS NOT CHEAP FOR BUYER

Seattle, April 17.—The purchaser is not benefited by the sale of convict-made goods. He must pay the same price for goods made in the prison as he would pay for goods made in the factory.

George Black, business man of this city, said:

"Conditions under which convict-made goods are manufactured make it impossible for them to be sold at a price that would result in a saving to the consumer."

"The output of prison factories is small and the cost of the patronage of workers. All clothing made in prisons is work clothes."

Mr. Black called attention to the fact that the union molders of the American Federation of Labor and the United Garment Manufacturers' Association are established in the garment industry in the various prisons. Under this system, the union molders are paid for the manufacture of goods for state use only.

94 FIRMS EARNED OVER TEN MILLION

New York, April 17.—The expanded earning power of American corporations in the last five years is emphasized in the current issue of American Bankers' Association Journal, revealing that 94 of the largest corporations earned of \$10,000,000 or more in 1925, while five of the largest corporations earned more than \$100,000,000.

In 1924 there were only 10 corporations in the \$10,000,000 class or more, which increased to 51 the next year. Of the 10 largest corporations, 9 are in the telephone and telegraph industry. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company led the list with \$125 million in 1925, followed by General Motors Corporation with \$100,000,000.

These figures were published, but recently were estimated at about \$94,000,000. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and General Motors are the three largest.

LABOR RADIO STATION ASSURED IN CHICAGO

Chicago, April 17.—The city of Chicago has instructed the department of public works to construct a radio station for the use of the Chicago Federation of Labor to erect a radio broadcasting station and to install a radio station in the city.

The radio station, which is intended to be a public station, will be operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor and will be used to broadcast the news and to transmit radio messages to labor centers of the city.

CITY FIREMEN'S RAISE FAVORED BY SIOUX CITY

Sioe City, Iowa, April 17.—In a city-wide referendum, the salary of municipal firemen was increased 10 percent. The vote was 15,000 to 8,000.

Opponents of the increase claimed that the firemen were already well paid. The firemen, however, claimed that the increase was necessary to attract new recruits.

The city council has agreed to the increase and the firemen will receive their new salaries starting on May 1.

CARPENTERS STRIKE TO GET UNION SHOP

San Francisco, April 17.—The Industrial Association is aiding carpenters contractors to secure a union shop. The entire Pacific coast is honey-combed for carpenters, who are told the usual fair rates.

Organized carpenters in this city and the Bay District are working to enforce the union shop. For several weeks prior to the strike, the Industrial Association flooded the country with stories of a labor shortage.

In contracts the strikers must sign, they agree to work for non-union employers, including workmen's compensation, in the event of injury to employees.

"According to the agreement," the American Pacific is a "union shop."

PACT ASSURES PEACE IN LARGE PAPER MILL

St. Louis, Mo., April 17.—An agreement that specifically described any strike or lockout was signed by the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills and the United Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

Under the agreement, the union is guaranteed that it will be represented by the company. The company, in turn, is guaranteed that it will be represented by the union.

The agreement also provides that the company will not employ any non-union workers. The union, in turn, will not strike or engage in any other form of industrial action.

SHOOTING PAPER WADS AT ANTHRACITE OWNERS

Washington, April 17.—Notorious reactionaries in the house are getting first page publicity through their attacks on the anthracite operators and retail coal dealers.

The anthracite operators are being attacked by the reactionaries because they are not willing to pay the high prices demanded by the reactionaries.

The anthracite operators are being attacked by the reactionaries because they are not willing to pay the high prices demanded by the reactionaries.

FAVOR STRIKE PROBE

Cumberland, Md., April 17.—Clergy men of this city have been informed by Hagerstown clergymen that they are being asked to investigate the activities of the Federal Council of Churches in the anthracite strike.

The Federal Council of Churches is being asked to investigate the activities of the anthracite strike because it is believed that the council is favoring the strikers.

PEOPLE LEAVING FARMS

Washington, April 17.—The movement of people from the farms to the cities is continuing at an alarming rate. The Department of Agriculture reports that in 1925, there were 15,000 more persons on farms in this country than in the same date in 1924.

The reason for this movement is the fact that the farms are becoming less profitable and the cities are becoming more attractive.

STOCKHOLDERS UNKNOWN

St. Louis, Mo., April 17.—The Federal Trade Commission has ruled that the names of the stockholders of the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills must be disclosed.

The commission has ruled that the names of the stockholders must be disclosed because the company is a public utility and the public has a right to know who owns it.

STOVE MOUNTING GAIN

Port Chester, N. Y., April 17.—Organized stove mounters have called wages to \$7 a day.

The stove mounters are organized in the United Brotherhood of Stove Mounters. They are working for a \$7 a day wage because they believe that is a fair wage for their work.

Alabama's Anti-Union Coal Fields In Unhealthy Location For Labor

Washington, April 17.—A survey of Alabama coal mines, issued by the United States bureau of mines, is a warning to labor that the coal fields of this state are in an unhealthy location for labor.

The survey shows that the coal fields of Alabama are in a location that is unhealthy for labor because of the lack of adequate transportation and the lack of adequate housing.

The survey also shows that the coal fields of Alabama are in a location that is unhealthy for labor because of the lack of adequate education and the lack of adequate medical care.

The survey concludes that the coal fields of Alabama are in a location that is unhealthy for labor and that labor should be organized to protect its interests.

WILL PERURY IN "FRAME UP" BE IGNORED BY GOVERNMENT?

Washington, April 17.—The government will not prosecute George B. Hayes for perjury in the trial of Sen. William J. Donovan, who was charged with having framed up the trial of Sen. William J. Donovan.

The government has decided not to prosecute Hayes because it believes that Hayes was not guilty of the crime.

The government has decided not to prosecute Hayes because it believes that Hayes was not guilty of the crime.

MINERS ARE WATCHING "CANT-STRIKE" PLAN

Washington, April 17.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers are alert to dangers contained in legislation proposed by the Senate that would give the president unusual powers in the event of a coal strike.

The mine workers are watching the "cant-strike" plan because they believe that it would give the president too much power over the coal industry.

PROFIT IN INJURY ASSAILED IN HOUSE

Washington, April 17.—Private interests that would make a profit out of the injury and death of wage workers are attacked by a house committee that has made a favorable report on the Fitzgerald workmen's compensation bill for the District of Columbia.

The committee has attacked the private interests because they believe that the interests are trying to make a profit out of the injury and death of wage workers.

EMPLOYER MUST UPHOLD PROMISE BY HIS AGENT

Olympia, Wash., April 17.—The state supreme court has ruled that where an employer's agent promises to pay a bonus to workers, the employer is liable.

The court has ruled that the employer is liable because the agent was acting within the scope of his authority.

WORLD-WIDE FASCISM IS MUSSOLINI'S GOAL

New York, April 17.—According to Associated Press cables, Mussolini's goal is world-wide fascism.

Mussolini has stated that his goal is to establish a world-wide fascist system that would be based on the principles of fascism.

USUAL WEEK VERDICT

Camden, N. J., April 17.—The usual verdict has been made after an inquest into the wreck of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Atlantic City express at Delmar, April 11.

The verdict was that the wreck was caused by the negligence of the railroad.

MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

Albany, N. Y., April 17.—Increased state financial aid to the public schools to the amount of \$185,000,000 the first year, is being approved by the state legislature.

The legislature has approved the increase because it believes that the schools need more money to provide a better education for the children.

NEGRO WORKERS UNITE

Chicago, April 17.—Trade unionists are working to organize the Negro workers in the garment industry.

The unionists believe that the Negro workers need a union to protect their interests.

ACCUSE W. B. BARD

New York, April 17.—A group of General Banking Corporation stockholders have accused W. B. Bard of mismanagement.

The stockholders believe that Bard has mismanaged the company and that they should be compensated for their losses.